

Message Text

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72

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 SY-10 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ACDA-19

USSS-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 INRE-00 CCO-00 NIC-01 AID-20

FBO-01 A-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 OMB-01 OC-06 DRC-01

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R 181230Z OCT 73

FM AMCONSUL IZMIR

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1089

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L IZMIR 461

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PFOR, TU

SUBJECT: ARAB STUDENTS IN TURKEY: POTENTIAL TROUBLE
MAKERS?

1. WE THINK IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT IZMIR PRESS OCT 17
CARRIES STORY CONCERNING EFFORTS OF ARAB STUDENTS IN
IZMIR TO ESTABLISH, WITH COOPERATION LOCAL RED
CRESCENT, BLOOD DONATION CAMPAIGN FOR BENEFIT OF

ARABS WOUNDED IN MIDEAST WAR. APPROXIMATELY 50
STUDENTS FROM EGYPT, SYRIA, IRAQ, LEBANON AND OTHER
ARAB COUNTRIES WERE REPORTED TO HAVE DONATED BLOOD
IN CAMPAIGN KICKOFF.

2. INTERESTING ALSO IS FACT THAT EFFORT HAS RECEIVED
RATHER EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY VIA TURKISH RADIO WHICH IS
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AIRING APPEALS FOR DONORS.

3. WE FIND THIS TYPE ACTIVITY SOMEWHAT AT VARIANCE
WITH OFFICIAL GOT EFFORTS TO APPEAR EVEN-HANDED
ABOUT ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE. ALSO SYMPTOMATIC OF
THIS TURKISH AMBIVALENCE IS TURKISH TELEVISION COVERAGE
OF WAR WHICH IS HEAVILY LACED WITH FILM CLIPS WHICH
OBVIOUSLY BEING PROVIDED BY ARAB SOURCES. PRESS
ALSO SEEMS TO BE GIVING ATTENTION TO "BIG LIE" STORIES
ABOUT U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN FIGHTING WITHOUT PAYING
MUCH ATTENTION TO OFFICIAL U.S. DENIALS.

4. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE ARE CONCERNED BY

POTENTIAL SECURITY THREAT TO AMERICAN AND NATO
PERSONNEL AND INSTALLATIONS POSED BY PRESENCE OF
SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF ARAB STUDENTS IN TURKEY. AS
WAR DRAGS ON AND U.S. RESUPPLY EFFORTS MOUNT AND
ESPECIALLY, IF ARAB FORTUNES SUFFER REVERSE,
TEMPTATION COULD BE GREAT FOR STUDENTS TO FOCUS
ATTENTION ON AMERICAN AND NATO INTERESTS IN TURKEY
AS HANDY TARGETS. WITH THIS IN MIND WE ARE BEING
PARTICULARLY CAUTIOUS.

SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973IZMIR00461
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS SMITH
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: IZMIR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731025/aaaaarym.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <24-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARAB STUDENTS IN TURKEY: POTENTIAL TROUBLE MAKERS?
TAGS: ASEC, PFOR, TU
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005